North Central Regional Transit District
Board Meeting
Friday, June 11, 2010

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1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular monthly meeting of the North Central Regional Transit District Board was called to order on the above date at approximately 9:00 a.m. by Chair Rosemary Romero at the Buffalo Thunder Resort, Pojoaque, New Mexico.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Moment of Silence

c. Roll Call

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

City of Española	Councilor Robert J. Seeds,
Rio Arriba County	Mr. Tomas Campos
Pojoaque Pueblo	Mr. Tim Vigil, Cameron Martínez
Santa Clara Pueblo	Ms. Mary Lou Quintana
City of Santa Fe	Councilor Rosemary Romero
Santa Fe County	Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Ms. Penny Ellis-Green
Tesuque Pueblo	Mr. Larry Samuel
Taos County	Commissioner Dan Barrone, Mr. Jacob Caldwell, County Attorney

Members Absent

Los Alamos County
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Ohkay Owingeh

Staff Members Present

Ms. Josette Lucero, Executive Director
Mr. Jack Valencia, Transit Project Manager
Mr. Ivan Guillen, Assistant Regional Coordinator
Ms. Cynthia Halfar, Executive Assistant
Ms. Cindy Altheyab, Finance Specialist
Mr. Peter Dwyer, Counsel for NCRTD

Others Present

Mr. Andrew Jandáček, Santa Fe County
Mr. Greg White, NMDOT
Mr. Mike Kelly, Santa Fe Trails
Ms. Nancy Talley, Los Alamos County
Mr. Colin Messer, City of Santa Fe
Ms. Carol Raymond, City of Santa Fe
Ms. Jill Carothers, Los Alamos County
Mr. John Whitbeck, Santa Fe County

d. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves to each other.

e. Approval of Agenda

Chair Romero noted that Los Alamos County had asked to remove 2a from the agenda but she would like to start the conversation to give direction to staff.

Councilor Seeds moved to approve the agenda as amended, making 2 a a discussion item. Commissioner Barrone seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

f. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2010

Chair Romero moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2010 as presented. Councilor Seeds seconded the motion, noting that his correct name was Robert J. Seeds. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

g. Public Comments Regarding Transportation Items or Issues

Commissioner Stefanics arrived at this time.

Mr. Whitbeck commented that there was a need to provide more information to the public. He was speaking in reference to public transportation in Santa Fe County. He related that there was a meeting last night in Eldorado and the attendees felt they could help. They believed the ridership would improve if more people were made aware of the service being offered.

Chair Romero suggested that he address that at the Santa Fe RPA meeting.

2. ACTION ITEMS APPROVAL/DISCUSSION:

a. Discussion of local and regional service definitions [discussion only]

Chair Romero noted a letter from Counsel on this issue of local or regional service definitions. As a policy board it was their job to implement policy.

Ms. Lucero noted that at the last board meeting they started discussing this issue and wanted to come up with a definition of local and regional service. She did some research on it including talking with other RTDs. Last year, the Board passed a resolution that said "regional in nature" but the question was what constituted regional service. Probably at the next board meeting the board might want to consider funding of local public transportation service. She asked Mr. Dwyer to address his memo.

Mr. Dwyer said he tried to keep the memo short. In summary, they couldn't find good definition on the internet from other RTDs. They were different with different services, but they delivered a wide range of services. So they went back to the State statute and he quoted from it. It was broad and general. So they intended to allow the Board to decide.

Mr. Samuel arrived at this time.

Mr. Dwyer said there were questions asked last time about crossing jurisdictional lines. His answer was that the service didn't have to cross lines.

Next it had to be compatible with what was there with plans in place that the RTD would need to coordinate with. That could be interpreted as the board wished.

The rest of the memo dealt with what was said last time.

In the last section was the staff recommendation to stick with regional service. The Board could say that anything within the region was regional. The resolution said the criteria included that funding was for new service or expanded service. That was their guide in trying to bring a definition for you. The 5 points at the end pointed to what was regional. He listed them. Services that sprung from the terminus of a blue bus could be considered regional. It was the Board's decision. If they stuck solely to regional then some services would not be supported. It ultimately would boil down to a budget decision.

Chair Romero said she, Ms. Lucero and Mr. Valencia met with Jon Bulthuis yesterday. The City of

Santa Fe was reducing its budget in all departments and trying to maximize the dollars it had. They wanted to be efficient and fair in the decisions. It was also evident there were some misunderstandings that needed to be clarified.

Mr. Campos asked if there was a definition in the federal funding.

Ms. Lucero didn't go to FTA but looked at other places. The FTA awarded three types of grants: Rural Transit, whose criteria was public transportation in communities less than 50,000; Small Urban (Santa Fe and Los Alamos) with 5309 funds; and then Large Urban (Albuquerque) for public transportation.

Mr. Dwyer noted that part of the discussion was what the future nature of NCRTD would be. He asked if it would be a mini funding agency or more of a service based organization with buses and drivers. It would make a difference in the IGC which now didn't allow the RTD to be just be a funder.

Chair Romero said the money for Santa Fe was funneled through the RPA. There were tribal issues they were still trying to figure out. It all had an impact on future of NCRTD. The policies might need to be changed.

Mr. Vigil believed any counties collecting GRT should be considered as regional routes. If they got funds from federal or state sources it was up to them whether to go through RTD.

Chair Romero said the people from Edgewood might be coming to the RPA. Tribes did have the option to go for their own dollars to supplement their needs..

Mr. Vigil said the Pojoaque Pueblo might want to provide senior transportation with different routes and could seek federal dollars for that.

Councilor Seeds asked why they became regional. He thought the RTD was formed to bring the funds together. If they split and went their own direction, it would be inadequate.

Commissioner Stefanics repeated her concern that GRT was not going to be adequate to fund the needs and needed to reconsider the free fare issue.

Commissioner Barrone thought the regional concept benefitted them right now and thought the biggest losers if it was done separately would be the small communities. Together they could access more funding. Collaborative efforts were more successful.

Chair Romero said staff did what the Board asked them to do and came up with some recommendations. She suggested they have a small group work on the definitions and policy recommendations. She volunteered Mr. Bulthuis as part of that task force. She said they had a month to do it with the memo as a start.

Those who volunteered included Councilor Seeds, Mr. Harris, Mr. Vigil and Mr. Mortillaro whom Ms. Talley volunteered along with Mr. Bulthuis. Mr. Caldwell suggested meeting in Pojoaque.

b. Approval of 2010 Intergovernmental Contract

Ms. Lucero said they needed to hold off on approving this because it was connected to 2a.

Chair Romero said she talked with Councilor Wismer last night. He felt it was better to have a firm agreement.

Mr. Dwyer asked members to look at 2.06d which gave him heartburn. Currently the gist was that the RTD would only do things on a reimbursement basis. So the existing section on local service was difficult to put into practice. He read the section and said it meant they could not do local service except as a courtesy with the local member paying the full cost. It was an issue with the existing IGC and could be resolved however the Board wanted. He read further from the contract.

Ms. Lucero clarified that when the original group was trying to approve the IGC there were things like Eldorado train service being included in the discussion. It was a mobility concept projected out 20 years or so.

Chair Romero asked Ms. Halfar to email the relevant material to each member of the task force.

Mr. Kelly commented that Mr. Bulthuis would be out quite a bit during the next month and volunteered to work on it in his stead. Chair Romero was okay with that change.

Commissioner Michael Anaya arrived.

Chair Romero welcomed Commissioner Michael Anaya back to the meeting.

Commissioner Anaya said this board was a very good board and he felt at home when he came back. He explained that he was here because recently the RPA took a service away from people living in southern Santa Fe County.

He said there was a meeting in Eldorado of people who were concerned about the service being taken away. He asked that the Board extend the service for another month and possibly use a smaller bus from Edgewood to Eldorado and use a larger bus from there into Santa Fe. Those citizens were upset with him but he fought hard to get that established. Now the RPA made the decision to eliminate the route because of lack of ridership. It didn't make sense to him to send a big bus to pick up 7 people. He realized that seven was not many but it was still helping those people out.

He thanked the Board for their time and for what they did.

Commissioner Stefanics said the GRT wouldn't cover all the needs and at some time the Board might need to consider a co-pay. She thought the staff were going to continue to work on that route.

c. **Executive Session – Pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2) to discuss limited personnel matters: Evaluation of Executive Director or, in the alternative, approval of salary.**

At 9:54 a.m. Commissioner Barrone moved to go into executive session pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 H (2) to discuss limited personnel matters. Commissioner Stefanics seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous roll call vote with the City of Española, Rio Arriba County, Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Tesuque Pueblo and Taos County voting in the affirmative and none voting against.

At 10:46 a.m. the Board went back into open session upon motion by Commissioner Stefanics and second by Councilor Seeds. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with the City of Española, Rio Arriba County, Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Tesuque Pueblo and Taos County voting in the affirmative and none voting against.

Commissioner Barrone moved to continue to use the STEP program that was adopted to provide for a 3.5% raise at this time with the continued use of STEP program as a guide in coming years with some consideration given to the economic conditions of that particular year. Councilor Seeds seconded the motion.

Councilor Seeds clarified that they would use the STEP program as a guide and this was a raise for the Executive Director. Commissioner Barrone agreed.

The motion passed by majority roll call vote with the City of Española, Rio Arriba County, Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, City of Santa Fe, Tesuque Pueblo and Taos County voting in the affirmative and Santa Fe County voting against.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Tribal Subcommittee Report

Mr. Vigil deferred to Mr. Valencia.

Mr. Valencia reported that the Tribal Subcommittee met on May 18th and would have a meeting next week. They worked on the procedures for applying for transit funds. Pojoaque Pueblo and Santa Clara Pueblo would make separate applications. The Board approved the consolidated funds for bus purchases and would receive the buses in 90 days.

They also needed to have the various amendments returned. They got an MOA from Santa Clara Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo and San Ildefonso Pueblo and needed an amendment. The RTD could not provide services past July 1, 2010 without them.

b. Finance/Regional Coordination & Consolidation Subcommittee Report

Ms. Lucero said at the last meeting this Subcommittee brought forth the final FY10 budget and the Plan for FY 11. The report had a comparison in it with an approved budget vs cost budget. The revised budget would go out this afternoon. She encouraged everyone to participate in this on how to deal with carry over.

Chair Romero said the biggest discussion item next Friday would be the policy issue of accrual vs cash next Friday.

Ms. Lucero said in the cash example was the nine-month budget the Board approved a year ago. The carry over would be the difference of budget vs what came in. They needed some video equipment and safety equipment to take out of that budget. And they needed to get up to a $1 million reserve.

If the Board considered accrual, any overages in GRT would add to next year's budget. Accrual would be closer to a three-month reserve and that was what she was recommending. They would be closer to a $1.5 million reserve. was for a rainy day.

Chair Romero said a bigger discussion would be a consolidated budget at some time. It took much staff time for unconsolidated budget reporting. It was food for thought for board members.

Councilor Seeds thought maybe they could get a sense of who would attend the meeting. The RTD office was small and this (Buffalo Thunder) was an ideal location.

Chair Romero said Mr. Vigil was graciously agreeing to find a place for the Committee meeting here. It would somewhere here.

Ms. Lucero said they would take a look at the five year budget. They might have a $250,000 shortfall.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if the recommendation was for accrual.

Ms. Lucero agreed.

Commissioner Barrone asked if they were talking about the actual amount the end of LA GRT was cutting into the budget and what might have to come from each entity.

Ms. Lucero said yes but added that they could use carryover amounts.

Commissioner Barrone said they didn't want to have to tap their general budget.

Ms. Lucero explained that the overage of GRT revenues went into the reserve.

Commissioner Barrone was glad for that. If there was a shortfall they could probably live within their budget but they shouldn't be penalized for doing that.

Ms. Lucero agreed but added that the RTD policy was to maintain a 3 month reserve.

c. Executive Report for May 2010

Chair Romero noted the report was in the packet.

d. NCRTD Ridership Reports for April 2010

Ms. Lucero clarified that they had added Los Alamos ridership and the third page was RTD alone and then consolidated.

Councilor Seeds asked if they could have tabs for the packet. Chair Romero agreed.

Commissioner Barrone asked if the RTD received an award.

Ms. Lucero said yes. The NCRTD received a ridership award in May.

e. Budget & Expenditure Reports

This matter was covered earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Lucero referred to the report in the packet. She reviewed the receipt of funds from each county. She referred to the budget comparison.

Chair Romero recalled in the first budget reports they were very concerned and met with NMTRD and now realized the RTD had exceeded its projections.

Commissioner Barrone added that they still had one more month to collect and it should be a good month.

4. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

Commissioner Stefanics asked if Ms. Lucero or staff could review the new changes in routes for July 1.

Ms. Lucero said they were in Santa Fe County and Los Alamos County. They eliminated the Edgewood route because ridership was an issue. With those cost savings they would add some routes in Santa Fe County - 599 station to four governmental entities starting July 1st. One run in the morning and two other runs in the afternoon.

Santa Fe Trails was also going to the 599 Rail Runner station and going to IAIA and on to SFCC.

Eldorado seemed to be successful and was expanding to 3 morning and 3 afternoon routes.

In Los Alamos, the new route was Route to from White Rock and the Airport.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Valencia reported that the building was moving along. They had good meeting yesterday. They were going out to bid in 3 weeks and would evaluate shortly thereafter with the hope to be able to move in sometime in February. They applied for a 5309 grant through DOT and it was pending along with the Livability grant which they applied for in January. It was an ARRA congressional grant.

6. NEXT BOARD MEETING: FRIDAY JULY 9, 2010

Commissioner Stefanics said the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers were available on July 9th and she would need to reserve it soon.

Chair Romero agreed to have the meeting in Santa Fe County Chambers.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Stefanics moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Vigil and Ms. Quintana seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Approved by:

Rosemary Romero, Chair

Attest:

Michael Wismer, Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: